JUL 15 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0525

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Vail III

Serial No.: 10/678,731

Confirmation No.: 6110

Filed: October 2, 2003

For: Method and Apparatus for Cementing Drill Strings in Place for One Pass Drilling and Completion of Oil and Gas Wells

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§ Group Art Unit: 3672
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§ Examiner: Tsay, F.
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§ Customer No. 36735
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 CFR 1.8
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 16 Jul, 2004.

William B. Patterson (Typed Name) — Signature

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 19, 2004

In response to the Office Action dated May 19, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 19, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0525/WBP the fee of $172 for excess independent claims and for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

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